

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174707
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM
APPROVED BY:NEA/PAB:JACOON
-----093231 112153Z /23
P 112027Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 4879

S E C R E T STATE 174707

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 6650 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NEW DELHI
CINCPAC CINCPACFLT COMSEVENTHFLT CTF 77 CNO WASHDC TEHRAN
DATED JUL 11:

QTE: S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 6650

NEW DELHI FOR NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PK, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO CRUISER VISIT TO KARACHI

REF: (A) CTG 77 100414Z JUL 78 (NOTAL) (B) COMSEVENTHFLT 101228Z JUL
78
(NOTAL) (C) JCS 061812Z JUL 78 (NOTAL) (D) CNO 091805Z JUL 78
(NOTAL)

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH GOP THE
POSSIBILITY OF A CRUISER VISIT TO KARACHI DURING 24-26
JULY TIME FRAME. PROBLEM SEEMS MAINLY TO BE WHETHER
WE WILL BE PERMITTED AND/OR WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE -- DUE
TO DEPTH CONSIDERATIONS -- TO BRING SHIP (USS TRUXTON) INTO
HARBOR AND ALONGSIDE. IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT NAVY WOULD STRONGLY
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PREFER NOT TO HAVE SHIP ANCHOR OUT AT THIS JUNCTURE IN THE
MONSOON CYCLE, GIVEN HIGH SEAS, WINDS, ETC. WHICH COULD
CURTAIL OR EVEN PRECLUDE US OF BOATS TO BRING LIVERTY
PARTIES ASHORE AND VISITORS TO SHIP.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM NAVY CHANNELS THAT AN ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSAL HAS BEEN FLOATED BY CTF 77; IT WOULD HAVE ENTIRE

TG MOVE TO AREA OFF PAKISTAN COAST -- IN KARACHI AREA --
AND INVITE CIPS TO BE FLOWN OUT TO THE CARRIER FOR DEMONSTRATION
OF CARRIER OPERATIONS AND PERHAPS A MEAL AS WELL.
EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS A GOOD IDEA WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY
GET US BETTER MILEAGE THAN A SINGLE-SHIP VISIT
IN KARACHI HARBOR. WE WOULD HAVE IN MIND, OF COURSE,
INVITING PAK NAVY CHIEF TO VISIT THE SHIP, BUT WE WOULD
ALSO PROPOSE TO INVITE GENERAL ZIA -- WHO IN HIS NEW CABINET
HOLDS BOTH THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIOS (AS
WELL AS HIS CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF HAT AND HIS POST AS CHIEF
MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, I.E. DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER).

3. WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THIS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM VIP
INVOLVEMENT; I AM NOT SURE WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT WHILE
WE AND THE PAKISTAN NAVY SORT OUT THE BOTTOM OF KARACHI
HARBOR TO SEE IF TRUXTON CAN MAKE IT IN AND OUT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO OPT FOR THE
VIP VISIT PLAN TO THE TG AT SEA, INCLUDING AN INVITATION
TO GENERAL ZIA, WHILE CONTINUING TO PURSUE THE TRUXTON
VISIT AS A BACK-UP PROPOSAL.

5. FOR CINCPACFLT: THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES EMBASSY
ENDORSEMENT OF CTF 77 PROPOSAL (REF A) AND (REF B),
PENDING APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HUMMEL UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRUISERS, VISITS, PORT CALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE174707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0349
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780773/aaaacjgc.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58844977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2047488
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO CRUISER VISIT TO KARACHI
TAGS: MPOL, PK, US
To: KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58844977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014